

A new species of *Eremophila* (Myoporaceae) endemic to the Wongan Hills, Western Australia

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Abstract

Chinnock, R. J. A new species of *Eremophila* (Myoporaceae) endemic to the Wongan Hills, Western Australia. Nuytsia 4 (1): 5-7 (1982). *Eremophila ternifolia* Chinnock is described and illustrated. This species is characterised by having leaves in whorls of 3 and fruit in which the two carpels are unequal and free in the upper half. The species is considered endangered, although it is established in cultivation.

***Eremophila ternifolia* Chinnock, sp. nov. (Figure 1)**

Frutex humilis ramis complanatis in plano uno. Folia ternato-verticillata lanceolata vel elliptica acuta raro obtusa. Sepala 4 vel 5 linearia vel anguste triangularia. Corolla lilacina maculata purpurea pubescentia. Fructus manifeste rostratus, duo carpella inaequalia dimidio superiore libero.

Typus: Wongan Hills, SE of Mt Matilda, on Conway's property, 11 Dec. 1980, B. R. Maslin 4805, (holo: PERTH; iso: AD, CANB).

Low spreading *shrub* 0.3-0.5 x 0.5-0.7 m. *Branches* opposite, subopposite, or alternate, flattened into one plane, non-tuberculate, hirsute but with numerous shorter glandular hairs. *Leaves* sessile, in whorls of 3, the whorls alternate; lamina green above, often reddish-brown below and on the margins, lanceolate to elliptic, acute, broadly acute or rarely obtuse, entire, 6-11 x 2.7-4 mm, glabrous. *Flowers* solitary, sessile. *Sepals* 4 or 5 sometimes the 5th one vestigial, free almost to the base, linear to narrowly triangular, swollen and corky at the base, green to reddish-brown, becoming prominently veined at fruiting stage and curving over fruit, 3-4.6 x 0.5-1 (-1.3) mm, glandular-pubescent on both surfaces. *Corolla* to 10 mm long, lilac, the tube white below, spotted purple inside, pubescent outside, prominently bearded on the lowermost lobe inside extending down the tube; lobes obtuse. *Stamens* 4, included, but the anthers extending to the throat, glabrous; filaments pale lilac, stamens blue. *Ovary* ovoid, 1.2-1.5 x c. 1 mm, bilobed, bilocular with one ovule per loculus, pubescent; the hairs around the apex short glandular, those below longer, eglandular. *Fruit* dry, indehiscent, prominently beaked, the carpels unequal and free in the upper half, 2.3-3.2 x 2.2-2.8 mm, hirsute. *Seed* small, ovoid, pale yellowish-white, 1.8 x 0.6 mm.

Other specimens examined. WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Conways Farm in the Wongan Hills, J. S. Beard 8003 (PERTH); E side of the Wongan Hills behind Conways property "Dunmoor", 8 km N of township Wongan Hills, K. F. Kenneally 7532 (PERTH).

Distribution. Known only from the Wongan Hills, 8 km N of the township.

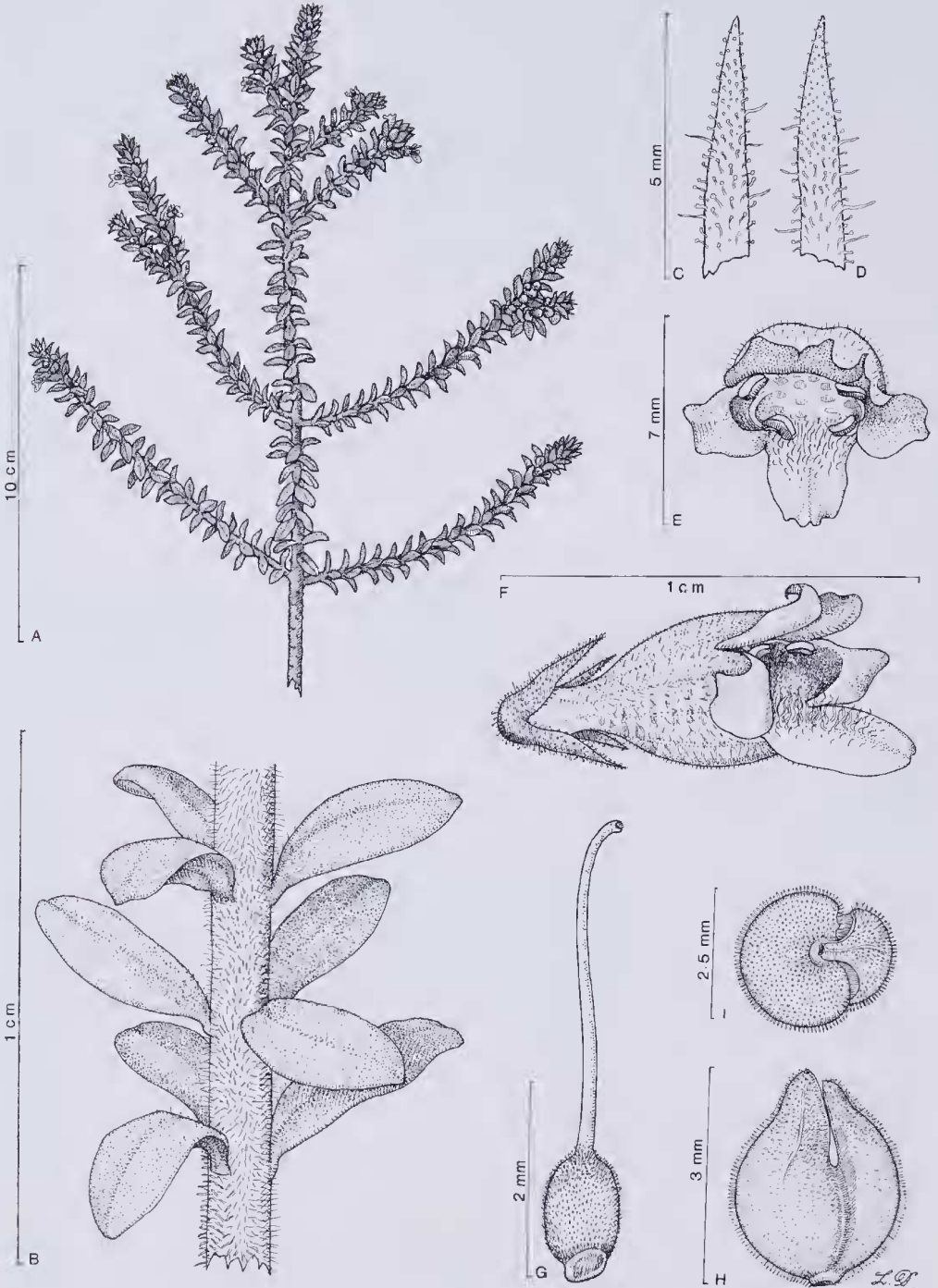


Figure 1. *Eremophila ternifolia*. A—Habit of major branch, branched in one plane. B—Portion of branch showing the ternate leaf arrangement. C and D—Outer and inner surface of sepal. E and F—front and side view of flower. G—Gynoecium. H and I—Side and top view of mature fruit. A—G from Maslin 4805 (Holotype); H—I from Kenneally 7532.

Ecology. *Eremophila ternifolia* is the second endemic *Eremophila* to be described from the Wongan Hills and like the other one, *E. sargentii* (S. Moore) Chinnock, it is extremely rare. Mr. K. F. Kenneally, who first found this species estimated that the total population consisted of approximately 70 plants. Both these species have a conservation status of 2V according to the Leigh, Briggs & Hartley (1981) classification for rare or threatened plants.

The species grows in *Eucalyptus longicornis/salubris* woodland with scattered mallees (*E. gracilis*) under a shrub layer of *Santalum acuminatum*, *Melaleuca adnata* and *Acacia orbifolia* on red clays between breakaways.

Affinities. *Eremophila veronica* is allied to *E. ternifolia* but differs in having small, densely spiral, linear subterete leaves which are flattened on the upper side and an ovoid fruit which is not split in the upper part.

Cultivation. *Eremophila ternifolia* has been established in cultivation in Adelaide from live material collected by Bruce Maslin. The species is easily obtained from cuttings and rooted plants can be obtained in 1 to 2 months with a 80-90 per cent success rate using a 1:1 peat/coarse sand medium.

Acknowledgements

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Reference

Leigh, J., Briggs, J. & Hartley, W. (1981). 'Rare or Threatened Australian Plants.' Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service Special Publication 7.

